

Your Local Fire Station is CLOSING SOON...

- Auberry Volunteer Fire Department, which responded to 8 structure fires, 23 brush fires, 26 accidents, & 103 medical emergencies last year (an emergency response every other day), will have to close down in the very near future.
- Operating expenses (fuel, insurance, training, etc.) alone are using Auberry Volunteer Fire Department's entirely donated budget of less than \$19,000.00 per year, leaving no money to repair the 5 OLD (c. 1967) fire trucks currently in service.
- These trucks are falling apart, and will one by one have to be retired for lack of monies to fix them...until very soon there will be no trucks left and the department will have to close.
- There are no county, state, or federal funds available for Auberry Volunteer Fire Department to use.

...so YOUR Fire Insurance rates are going UP!

- Fire Insurance rates are largely determined by HOW CLOSE TO A FIRE STATION a property is; and HOW MUCH WATER a fire department can pump within a certain time limit.
- Auberry Volunteer Fire Department currently has 2 structure-fire engines, a water tender, a brush-fire engine, and a rescue squad truck---allowing the community it serves to enjoy one of the lowest fire insurance ratings for a rural area.
- If Auberry Volunteer Fire Department has to close, the community's fire insurance ratings would dramatically worsen and correspondingly insurance rates would go up---by an estimated \$200.00-\$800.00 per year, depending upon location.
- Further, Bald Mountain Volunteer Fire will not respond to Auberry emergencies.
- Hurley CDF below Prather would become the nearest fire station---*except when called to distant wildland fires*---which happens often in the summer. The community would then not have year-round nearby emergency services.

Here are your choices:

- The community in Auberry can vote to create a County Service Area, which would be funded by an assessment to your annual property tax bill---just like Bald Mountain Volunteer Fire and Shaver Lake Fire Departments.
- The annual assessment is estimated at approximately \$25.00 for open land, \$75.00 for residential property with a house/dwelling, and \$100.00 for commercial property.
- The assessment would create an estimated \$70,000.00-\$80,000.00 yearly budget for Auberry Volunteer Fire Department, which would allow it to continue, to rebuild with newer engines and equipment, & to grow with the community it serves.
- These monies would go only and directly to the Auberry Volunteer Fire Department, but would be budgeted & monitored by a local oversight committee and Fresno County.

OR...

- Ignore the need now and allow Auberry Volunteer Fire Department to eventually close.
- Pay increased fire insurance rates as well as live without year-round nearby emergency services.

Please complete the enclosed RED survey response card, affix a postage stamp and mail within two weeks of receipt.

Contact us in the evenings with any questions you may have:

Rob Actis, tel: 855-3643, John & Gayle Hays, tel: 855-6540, Barbara Ferguson, tel: 299-5440, Auberry Fire Chief Ron Eldridge tel: 855-4084

